

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 051640Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1889

EXDIS

DEPT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CG

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION AT PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY
MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 043898
(B) LIMA 1530

1. ZAIRIAN SOURCES HAVE BASICALLY CONFIRMED PERUVIAN ANALYSIS OF DAKAR CONFERENCE REPORTED REF (B). FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDS MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES WHERE ZAIRE IS REPRESENTED SAID THAT OPEC PREVIOUS TO DAKAR CONFERENCE HAD NOT TAKEN CLEAR POSITION THAT PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE ON OIL SHOULD BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE ALL RAW MATERIALS. AT DAKAR, THIS SOURCE MAINTAINS, OPEC COUNTRIES MADE VERY STRONG PITCH FOR SUCH AN ALLIANCE OF RAW MATERIALS PRODUCERS IN CONTEXT OF UPCOMING ENERGY DISCUSSIONS AND INDEED OFFERED VAGUE PROMISES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIAL RAW MATERIALS PARTNERS.

2. BOTH FON MIN SOURCE AND MINISTRY OF MINES CONFIRM THAT ZAIRE HAS RECEIVED FORMAL INVITATION (VIA NOTE) FROM FRANCE TO REPRESENT AFRICA AT PREPARATORY PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETING AND THAT GOZ PLANS, AS OF NOW, TO

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PARTICIPATE IN TRI-LATERAL FRAMEWORK PROPOSED BY FRENCH/

SAUDIS. BUT, GIVEN THE OPEC MOVE AT DAKAR AND SPECIFIC ALGERIAN INSISTENCE ON BROADENING SCOPE OF PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE QUESTION OF ALL RAW MATERIALS-- AND OF ALGERIAN QUESTIONING OF REPRESENTATIVITY OF ZAIRE, BRAZIL AND INDIA--GOZ FINDS ITSELF IN DIFFICULT POSITION.

3. AS FON MIN SOURCE PUT IT: "WE RECEIVED INVITATION FROM FRENCH WHO HAD ONE GOAL IN MIND (TRI-LATERAL CONFERENCE RESTRICTED TO OIL QUESTION) AND THEN ALGERIANS AND OPEC AT DAKAR INSISTED, AS PRECONDITION THEIR ATTENDANCE, ON NEW GOAL AND DIFFERENT PLAYERS. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF CONFERENCE TO PREPARE FOR: ONE RELATED STRICTLY TO OIL/ENERGY, OR ONE INCLUDING ALL RAW MATERIALS. AND SINCE WE ARE NOT SURE ZAIRE'S POSITION ON EITHER OF THESE ISSUES IS REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL OF AFRICA (GOZ HAS NOT FORMALLY CONSULTED ANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY) WE ARE IN POOR WAY TO COUNTER ALGERIAN MOVE ON REPRESENTATION ISSUE".

4. POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS REMAIN UNAVAILABLE, BUT WE KNOW THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND BISENGIMANA, WERE PERSONALLY ATTRACTED TO "YEMANI PROPOSAL" WHEN FRENCH INFORMED GOZ OF IT LAST OCTOBER. MOBUTU IS KNOWN TO HAVE INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTER BULA TO INDICATE TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR WITHIN LAST SIX WEEKS GOZ INTEREST. SINCE GOZ NEVER ASKED FOR DETAILS IT OUR PRESUMPTION THAT MOBUTU'S INTEREST IN PRIMARILY PRESTIGE ALTHOUGH BISENGIMANA'S EARLIER COMMENTS (KINSHASA 251) SUGGEST SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST AS FAR AS COPPER PRICES GO.

5. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND ALGERIANS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE HERE AND PRESUME THAT LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALUD MAY FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS DURING HIS ANTICIPATED WEEK-LONG VISIT SCHEDULED START MARCH 7.

6. COMMENT: WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO BE CERTAIN BUT I BET MOBUTU OPTS FOR THE PRESTIGE OF BEING PRESENT UNLESS
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LIBYANS OR OTHERS ARRIVE BEARING ADDITIONAL GIFTS. IT MIGHT HELP SWING DAY HERE WERE I AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GOZ OF OUR SUPPORT IF INDEED WE CONCLUDE WE PREFER ZAIRE PRESENCE TO UNCERTAINTIES AND DIFFICULTIES WHICH FROM HERE APPEAR INHERENT IN ALGERIAN APPROACH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RAW MATERIALS, PETROLEUM, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS, MEETINGS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA01889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750078-0253
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750381/aaaacuxp.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 043898
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPRESENTATION AT PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING
TAGS: ENRG, CG, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006